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Waller, W. Rowland

Leyton Urban District Council

London

[1912?]

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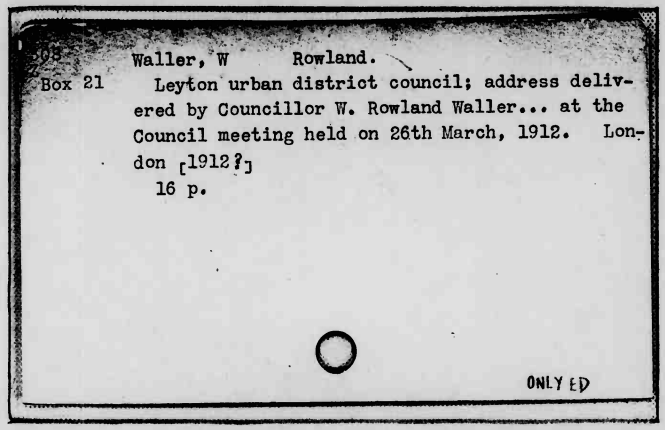
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ADDRESS

DELIVERED BY

COUNCILLOR W. ROWLAND WALLER, J.P.,

Chairman of the Council,

AT THE

COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26TH MARCH, 1912.

London:

WATERLOW BROS. & LAYTON, LIMITED, 24 AND 25, BIRCHIN LANE, E.C.

Leyton Urban District Council.

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Leyton Urban District Council.

Address delivered by COUNCILLOR W. ROWLAND WALLER, J.P., *Chairman of the Council, at the Council Meeting held on the 26th March*, 1912.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with annual custom, I would now ask your attention to a summary of the work of the Council during the year in which I have had the honour of presiding over its deliberations. For convenience of reference I will deal with the various branches of the Council's activities under the headings of the several Committees, and will, first of all, refer to the important matters coming within the purview of the—

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

The health of the District has been, on the whole, very satisfactory, as the following figures testify. Our death-rate for 1911 was 11·8 per 1,000 of the population, as against 14·6 for England and Wales as a whole and 15·5 for the 77 Great Towns. The Zymotic death-rate was 1·90 per 1,000, that of England and Wales 1·73 and that of the 77 Great Towns 2·29 per 1,000. The birth-rate was 23·5 per 1,000, as against 24·4 for England and Wales and 25·6 for the 77 Great Towns. Our Infantile Mortality, *i.e.*, the number of deaths of infants under one year of age, was 112·6 per 1,000, while that of England and Wales was 130 and of the 77 Great Towns 140. Although Leyton shows an improvement in this respect, the preservation of infant life is of such urgent importance to the nation that I venture to hope that by the adoption of precautions in the way of registration and advice it may be found possible, in the near future, to effect a

considerable reduction on our present figures. As bearing upon the vital statistics reported to us from time to time, it is very satisfactory to note that the estimate of our Medical Officer as to the population resident in the Leyton Urban District proved to be quite remarkably close to the official figures of the 1911 Census furnished to us. He estimated, to the middle of 1910, a population of 123,300. The official figures in April, 1911, were 124,736, showing a difference of only about 1 per cent. This shows that our calculations for the past few years have been as accurate as can be expected with a decennial census. The following are the numbers of cases of infectious disease notified to the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

Scarlet Fever	460	Diphtheria ..	174
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	28	Phthisis	195

271 cases of Scarlet Fever and 124 cases of Diphtheria have been treated in our Hospital during the period. The exceptionally hot and dry summer of 1911 was the cause of the heaviest mortality from Diarrhœa which has occurred since 1906, and an epidemic of Measles which occurred last spring accounted for the loss of 76 lives. The Local Government Board have issued two Orders during the year making all cases of Phthisis occurring in Institutions and in the private practice of medical practitioners notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health. These Orders, added to that issued by the Board in 1908, which provided for the notification of all Poor Law cases of Phthisis, bring all cases of this disease which are receiving treatment in the District to the notice of our Health Department. Various other health matters have engaged attention during the year, such as the making of epidemic Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, acute Polio-Myelitis and acute Polio-Encephalitis notifiable diseases, and the enrolling of the Trades of Rag and Bone Dealer, and Fish Frier among what are technically known as "Offensive Trades."

House-to-house inspection has been energetically carried out by our Officers, and Slaughter-houses, Bakehouses, Dairies, Factories, Workshops and other premises in connection with the

Food Supply of the District have been regularly supervised and the Byelaws relating thereto duly enforced. Various seizures of unsound articles of food have been made and some prosecutions instituted, and generally the sanitary oversight of the District has been admirably carried out by our Medical Officer and his Staff.

From the 1st April, 1911, to the 29th February, 1912, the plans of 246 new Buildings and Additions have been presented to the Council, and of these 215 were approved. Eighty-two houses, of which 16 were double tenements, were certified as fit for occupation, in addition to several larger buildings and factories.

At the Destructor Works about 19,000 tons of house refuse and about 700 tons of pressed sludge have been consumed. In addition, about 10,000 tons of the latter have been sent away to various parts of the country for manure. A new 9-inch sewer has been constructed in Vicarage Road from Capworth Street for a distance of about 200 yards towards Lea Bridge Road.

During the year the exterior of the Isolation Hospital has been painted and a new Larder erected.

HIGHWAYS AND LIGHTING COMMITTEE.

There are now over 67 miles of roads maintained by the Council, and during the year several improvements in either widening or paving have been carried out in the following roads :—

Skeltons Lane.	Grange Road to Goldsmith Road.
Forest Road.	Canterbury Road.
	Front of Warner Estate.

The Bridge over the Dagenham Brook has also been widened. During last summer the following roads were tarsprayed :—

Grove Green Road.	Church Lane.	New Wanstead.
Cambridge Park.	Woodford Road.	Manor Road.
Grange Park Road.	Bushwood.	Vernon Road.
Harrington Road.	Burghley Road.	Holly Road.
Primrose Road.	Vicarage Road.	Park Road.
Church Road.	Bush Road.	Browning Road.

Footpaths round the Coronation Gardens.

The following roads, or portions thereof, were made up with tarred granite :—

Woodford Road.	Cambridge Park Road.	Grove Green Road.
Church Road.	Hoe Street.	Markhouse Road.
Whipps Cross Road.		Fladgate Road.

During the year the new bridge over the Water Works River has been completed by the London County Council and opened to the public. The planting of trees in the roads, commenced three years ago, has been further continued, and some 46 roads were scheduled to be planted, about 3,000 trees being purchased for this purpose. Some 26 of these roads have now been completed, but owing to the necessity for replacing a large number of trees, which were wantonly destroyed by poison last season, there will not be sufficient trees left to complete the list of roads selected. The cost of this work has been met as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Grant from the Local Government Board ..	200	0	0
Distress Committee	100	0	0
Voted by the Council	100	0	0

Work has been provided in this way for a large number of unemployed workmen during the winter months.

The Fire Brigade has, during the year, rendered its customary excellent service to the District, under the invaluable leadership of Captain MILLER. Forty-five fires have occurred and have all been satisfactorily dealt with, several letters being received expressing thanks and admiration of the work done.

During the year the Harrow Green Steamer has been overhauled and repaired and a new boiler provided, and it is now in a highly satisfactory condition.

The members of the Brigade have, during the year, given great attention to drills in order to add to their efficiency, and as the result of competitions they have been awarded no less than six first and three second prizes, and besides other money prizes have won the Acton Town Cup and Acton Town Challenge Bowl, also two valuable shields.

The total strength of the Brigade is 35 members, and the appliances in use consist of :—

1 steamer.	2 horse-drawn chemical engines.
6 escapes.	1 horse curricle.
1 manual.	2 hose trucks.

Men are on duty day and night at the Fire Stations, also at the outpost stations in charge of escape, hose, &c., during each night.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING COMMITTEE.

The Electric Light and Power Department, after meeting all charges for Interest amounting to £4,340, repayment of Loans amounting to £7,843, and placing £1,200 to Reserve Fund, will, it is estimated, show a surplus of about £1,200 for application in relief of Rates.

The maximum lighting load was 1,078 kilowatts, equivalent to 35,933 30-watt lamps, against 35,233 of the previous year, being an increase of about 2 per cent., and the number of units sold will be about 1,666,508, against 1,538,063, being an increase of about 8·3 per cent.

The maximum tramway supply load was 1,375 kilowatts, and the units supplied will be about 2,552,439, as against 2,416,956, being an increase of about 5·6 per cent.

The number of consumers has increased from 2,402 to 2,601, being an increase of 8·3 per cent., representing an increase of 6,207, or 7·7 per cent. 30-watt lamps connected to the mains.

There have been 15 new public incandescent lamps erected during the year, which, together with the consumers just referred to, will make the total of 30-watt lamps connected to the mains 91,419.

Three and a half miles of main cables have been laid during the year, making the total length of lighting cables laid in the District 235 miles.

The total capital raised and spent upon the undertaking is £187,296, of which £68,178 has been repaid, leaving £119,118 still due.

Applications have recently been received for the supply of lighting and power to two additional large consumers, viz., THE LONDON GENERAL OMNIBUS CO., LTD., for their new garage now being erected at Leyton Green, and the STRATFORD CO-OPERATIVE AND INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY for their new laundry, &c., at the late North Metropolitan Tramway Company's Works in Union Road.

TRAMWAYS COMMITTEE.

The past year has shown, with respect to this Department, further and important developments in the now necessary system of inter-running.

We have terminated the old Agreement with the London County Council, under which all services along the tramway lines in Lea Bridge Road were limited to their cars, and entered into a new Agreement, under which we have run, since the 8th December last, a service of our own cars between "Bakers' Arms" and Aldgate, via Hackney, also along the same route to Moorgate Street and Bloomsbury, by London County Council Cars.

The terminus at Whipps Cross of the Leytonstone Route to Aldgate, which was a great inconvenience to the public, has been abolished. The cars now run on to the "Bakers' Arms," except at week-ends, when they run forward to the "Rising Sun."

Motor-bus competition has been keener than ever, and in consequence of the increased number of these vehicles the wear and tear of the portion of the roadway chargeable to the Department has increased enormously.

There has been no change in the Agreements with respect to the through running routes with West Ham and Walthamstow, which are working very satisfactorily for all the Authorities concerned. Thus the residents of the District are well catered for in local tramway services, and on the two main roads have a quick and cheap run to various parts of the City.

The number of passengers carried during the year is in excess of sixteen millions, and the receipts are approximately £67,750, or an average of 10·12d. per car mile. It is confidently expected

that the Accounts for the year ending 31st March, 1912, when made up, will show a surplus on the working of about £2,846, of which it is proposed to place £1,423 to Reserve Fund, and to utilise the balance in relief of Rates. This is after charging £18,127 during the year for repayment of Loans and Interest thereon.

PUBLIC OFFICES AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE.

The popularity of the Open Spaces owned by the Council has been fully maintained. The general appearance of the Coronation Gardens and other Grounds have afforded much pleasure and given general satisfaction. The new departure made in keeping open the Gardens till 10 o'clock p.m. during the summer months was fully appreciated and taken advantage of by large numbers of visitors, and no complaints of any kind were received. The Band performances were again very successful, especially those at Whipps Cross, where there were very large attendances at each performance throughout the season. The Massed Band performance at Coronation Gardens, notwithstanding the wet weather, proved very attractive and drew a great crowd of visitors.

The Alfresco Concerts have also increased in popularity and attractiveness, on several occasions large numbers of visitors being unable to obtain admission. This has led the Council to arrange for increased accommodation, by enlarging the enclosure round the Bandstand.

The Playing Fields continue to be much used and appreciated, the number of Football Clubs accommodated last season being 48, whilst the receipts have again exceeded our estimates. The dressing-room accommodation is also highly appreciated.

The Tennis Courts at James Lane Recreation Ground continue to be well patronised.

An additional Attendant was provided at the Bathing Lake, Whipps Cross, and although there were a number of cases where bathers got into trouble whilst in the water, yet, owing to timely assistance rendered, there were no fatal results.

The Council's Nursery at Oliver Road, for the provision of Plants, Trees and Shrubs for use in their Open Spaces, has been improved, and further accommodation for bedding plants, &c., has been made by the addition of a new greenhouse some 80 ft. by 16 ft.

LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

During the year under review the juvenile street traders and the employers of child labour have been kept under observation, and proceedings have been taken, when necessary, for enforcing the Council's Bye-laws.

Proceedings have also been taken in respect of infringements of the Closing Order made by the Council in respect of Hairdressers' and Barbers' shops.

The number of street trading badges now in circulation is 710, 528 of these being held by boys between the ages of 11 and 14, and 182 by boys between the ages of 14 and 16.

The question of the revision of the standard clause inserted in the Council's contracts relating to payment of fair wages to employees has received the attention of the Committee, and, as a result, in their Report dated the 24th October, 1911, they submitted an amended clause, which was adopted by the Council.

The Bill promoted by the West Ham Corporation for an extension of the area of the County Borough, for the construction of new tramways and extension of the Corporation's Electric Lighting Undertaking, &c., has been under consideration by the Council, and a Petition has been presented in opposition to the Bill for the purpose of obtaining a *locus standi* in order to protect this Council's interests.

BATHS AND WASHHOUSES COMMITTEE.

During the remarkable weather experienced in the summer of 1911 the attendance of the public demonstrated very clearly that, given favourable conditions, the Public Baths are as popular as ever. The number of bathers during the year was 174,911, an increase of 22,238 over the previous 12 months.

The joint efforts of the Baths and Education Committees to encourage swimming amongst the school children in the District have been rewarded by a very large increase in the number who have become proficient swimmers, and the Council are to be congratulated upon the fact that no District in the Kingdom surpasses this in that respect.

The question of additional boring in order to procure sufficient water from the Well to meet the increased demand from the Electric Light Works, and for road watering purposes, in addition to supplying the Baths, is still under consideration.

During the winter months the First Class Swimming Bath continues to be in demand for Public Meetings, Concerts, Dances, &c.

LIBRARIES COMMITTEE.

The following statistics relating to the use made of our Central and Branch Libraries will be of interest, and will serve to indicate their value to the community.

1st APRIL, 1911, TO 31st JANUARY, 1912.

	Totals.	Daily Average.
No. of Volumes issued from the Central Library	110,270	556·9
No. of Volumes issued from the Lea Bridge Library	48,226	243·5
No. of Volumes issued from the Leytonstone Library	67,791	342·3
No. of Volumes issued from the Central Reference Library	5,765	29·1
No. of Visitors to the Central Reading Room	137,826	542·6
No. of Visitors to the Lea Bridge Reading Room	138,918	546·9
No. of Visitors to the Leytonstone Reading Room	127,825	503·2
Borrowers enrolled during the year (3 Libraries)	3,497	
Books added during the year (3 Libraries)	1,113	
Stock of Books in the Libraries (3 Libraries)	38,661	

In connection with the Tercentenary celebration of the English Bible, an Exhibition of Bibles, kindly lent by Mr. C. J. TABOR, of Knotts Green, was on view for six months at Lea Bridge Branch Library. The same gentleman also delivered a Lecture on the early printing of the Bible, which was much appreciated.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The Teaching Staff at present employed by the Council consists of :—

49 Head Teachers.
371 Certificated Assistants.
58 Uncertificated Assistants.
6 Supplementary Teachers.
7 Student Teachers.
3 Teachers of Handicraft (Woodwork).
4 Cookery Instructresses.
2 Laundry Work Instructresses.

a total of 500 Teachers on the permanent staff, as compared with 494 last year. The total number of Scholars now on the School Registers is 20,894, as against 20,762 for 1911.

During the period from the 1st April, 1911, to the 9th February, 1912, the School Canteen Committee have provided 7,003 Breakfasts and 25,447 Dinners, a total of 32,450 meals, at a cost of £255 3s. 7d., as against 63,148 meals at a cost of £484 1s. 0d. for the corresponding period of last year, the large decrease being no doubt due largely to the better conditions of trade and, to some extent, to the activities of the Canteen Enquiry Sub-Committee, the cases at present on the list being principally those of a "chronic character."

The Boys' and Girls' Choirs of Farmer Road School were last year again successful in retaining the Challenge Shields at the Stratford Musical Festival, the Boys' Choir for the sixth year and the Girls' for the fifth year.

To commemorate the accession of King George V. the Scholars in our Schools received a week's holiday, and the afternoon of the day upon which the Schools closed was devoted to Coronation celebrations, the Scholars being given, as a souvenir of the occasion, a handsome card bearing a specially executed design with photographs of Their Majesties.

Many of the Scholars, with the approval of H.M. Inspector under Article 44 (*b*) of the Code, attended the Festival of Empire and Pageant of London with their Teachers; and the Council were also able to obtain 250 free tickets from the "Festival" Committee, which were distributed amongst the seven Schools showing the largest percentage of children in receipt of free meals.

With a view to the more thorough cleaning of the School premises, women scrubbers, engaged direct by the Council, are now employed. The Caretakers, being thus relieved of the work of floor scrubbing, are now required to scrub the furniture and woodwork of the rooms, the effect being that the floors, furniture, &c., of each School are thoroughly scrubbed six times per year.

It has been found necessary, having regard to the lack of school places in the Lea Bridge and Sybourn Street districts, to arrange for the provision of additional accommodation, and a scheme for the enlargement of Church Road School, including provision for the Handicraft Centre at present using Sybourn Street Temporary School, as also for an additional Laundry Centre, has been approved by the Council, and only awaits the sanction of the Board of Education before building operations are commenced. The effect of the scheme as regards school accommodation is to provide about 335 further places at Church Road School and to set free the temporary iron building at Sybourn Street, which can be utilised, if need be, as a temporary School to accommodate 370 infants.

The Council having decided to have their own Design for Domestic Subjects and Central Class Certificates, an offer of THE FINE ARTS PUBLISHING CO., LTD., to award Prizes of the value of £5, £1 10s. and £1 respectively, for the three Designs

executed by Scholars in the Schools adjudged by the Committee to be the best, was accepted. The result of the Competition was that all three Prizes were secured by boys attending Cann Hall Road School.

An additional Attendance Officer having been appointed, an appreciable improvement in the average attendance of Scholars may be expected, which would result in an increased Government Grant to the Council, each Scholar in average attendance earning £1 1s. 4d. Annual Grant, 10s. Fee Grant, and 9s. 10½d. Aid Grant, a total of £2 1s. 2½d. per Scholar. On the basis of the total amount of these Grants (£37,859) received during the financial year ending 31st March, 1911, when there was a percentage of average attendance to number on books of 89, each increase of 1 per cent. in average attendance would represent an extra £425.

By the retirement, on the 14th January last, of Mrs. DAVENPORT, the Head Mistress of Goodall Road Girls' School, whose period of service as Head Mistress in the District extended over 34 years, the Council has lost one of its most able and efficient servants. She takes with her the best wishes of every Member of the Council and Education Committee for her future welfare.

The Expenditure of the Education Committee during the year ending 31st inst. is expected to amount to £102,026, of which £41,200 has been provided from the Rates.

OLD AGE PENSION COMMITTEE.

This Committee has had before it during the year the claims of 439 persons, 163 men and 267 women. 367 were allowed by the Committee, 345 of them being for the maximum amount of 5s. per week. The total number of claims dealt with by the Committee since the coming into force of the Old Age Pension Act of 1908 is 2,352, from 796 men and 1,556 women.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The total income ot the Council from all sources for the year has been £295,445, and the total expenditure £297,784. New Loans amounting to £17,870 have been received, while £37,108

has been repaid off Principal. The total indebtedness of the Council now amounts to £804,411, made up as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
General Account	152,204	0	0
Library Account	615	0	0
Technical Institute Account ..	5,031	0	0
Baths Account	28,300	0	0
Private Street Improvements Account	1,600	0	0
Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899	566	0	0
Tramways Account	256,716	0	0
Electric Light Account	123,880	0	0
Elementary Education Account ..	235,499	0	0
	£804,411	0	0

During the year the rateable value of the District has increased by £3,228, and now amounts to £515,672. The assessments number 27,570.

The above facts and figures are taken from the various reports submitted from time to time to the Council, and will serve to impress upon our constituents the magnitude and importance of the work cast upon those who have the responsibility of controlling the municipal affairs of this great District. Leyton is one of the three largest Urban Districts in the United Kingdom, with a population of nearly two and a half times the number required to qualify it to become a County Borough, and a rateable value equal to one-tenth of that of the County of Essex. I venture to think that the ratepayers have reason to be satisfied that the affairs of the District have been well and economically administered during the past year, and that, with its excellent sanitary arrangements, its well-kept and well-lighted roads, its efficient tramway service and electric light undertaking, its baths and washhouses, its public libraries, its secondary and elementary schools and its open spaces and playing fields, it is a healthy, well-equipped District, which will bear comparison with any other District of its size and character.

The year just closing has been an eventful one, in that it has witnessed the Coronation of His Majesty King George V. The Council took its part in the popular demonstrations of joy at this happy event, and I was privileged to preside over the Committee which arranged for a local celebration by which about 800 old people were entertained to dinner. The cost was defrayed by public subscription, and the surplus of about £34 was divided among various charitable organizations working in the District.

I would also like to refer to one of the Council's roadmen, HARRY NORRIS, who lost his life in a gallant and successful effort to save the lives of a woman and her child in a fire which occurred in a house in Windmill Lane, Stratford, in September last. The Council passed a vote expressing its sorrow at his death and its great appreciation of his heroic act, also defraying the expense of his funeral. By means of subscriptions, a Stone has been erected over his Grave in Woodgrange Cemetery, suitably inscribed.

I cannot conclude without thanking all the Council's Officers for the efficient services they render to the District, and in a more personal sense I would like to express my appreciation of the valuable advice and assistance I have received during my term of office from our respected Clerk, Mr. VINCENT. He has been, and is, a tower of strength to us, and in saying so I am only expressing the thoughts and feelings of you all. I also acknowledge the efficient help of his Deputy, Mr. HERBERT VINCENT, and the Assistant Clerk, Mr. RITHERDON, who has been always ready and willing to do all that has been required. I must also say to you, my Colleagues, how grateful I am to you all for the honour you conferred upon me in electing me to this Chair, and for the good feeling and consideration by which I have been sustained throughout my year of office.

Leyton Urban District Council.

Town Hall, Leyton, E.

With the Clerk's Compliments.

MSH 20344

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